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Part Taken By the Jews in American Wars

Among the prominent parts taken by the Jews in promoting the progress of America, is that part taken by them in American wars.

In 1765, prior to the Revolutionary War, the non-importation resolutions were passed. This was the first organized movement that agitated the coming war, and had for its signers the following Jews: Benjamin Levy, Samson Levy, Joseph Jacobs, Hayman Levy, Jr., David Franks, Mathias Gratz, Bernard Gratz and Moses Mordecai.

In 1779, under the command of Captain Lushington, a corps of volunteer infantry was raised, composed mainly of Jews, who again displayed their bravery under Gen. Moultrie and Beaufort.

The name that shines forth more conspicuously than the others during this period is Haym Solomon, a philanthropist and patriot of Philadelphia. At a time when pecuniary aid was most needed, he advanced \$600,000, without interest, to the government, and died before he had taken any steps to secure a reimbursement. His heirs, however, have applied to the government for the money, but as late as 1905 had not succeeded in getting it. Whether or not they have received it since then, I do not know.

That it was through Solomon's influence that war subsidies were obtained from France and Holland, has been shown by the late Prof. Herbert B. Adams and Dr. Hollander, both of John Hopkins University. They have also shown that when Salomon was appointed paymaster of the troops in America by the French government, he refused to be remunerated for his services.

Haym Solomon was not the only Jew, who so liberally parted with his money for the sake of his country. Benjamin Levy of Philadelphia and Benjamin Jacobs of New York were among the signers of the bills of credit for the Continental Congress in 1776, and Samuel Lyons of New York signed similar bills in 1779. Isaac Moses of Philadelphia contributed \$15,000 to the Colonial Treasury, and Herman Levy of the same city never hesitated to advance large sums to support the

army. Manuel Mordecai Noah of South Carolina, who served in the army as an officer, both on Washington's and General Marion's staff, generously gave \$100,000 to promote the cause.

In the South we meet with the unselfish patriot Mordecai Shetfall, Chairman of the Rebel Parochial Committee." He was foremost among the patriot defenders of Savannah when it was attacked by the British in December, 1778, and is known to have been liberal in contributing to the cause. In 1780, when the British authorities passed the disqualifying act, his name appears near the head of the list with the most prominent patriot names in Georgia.

Among other distinguished names may be mentioned those of Col. Isaac Franks, who became aid de-camp to Washington, and Major Benjamin Nones, who served on the staff of both LaFayette and Washington. The latter entered service under Pulaski and as he writes, "fought in almost every action which took place in Carolina, and in the disastrous affair of Savannah shared the hardships of that sanguinary day." Under the command of Baron de Kalb, he became major of a legion of 400 men, composed partly of Jews. Other prominent Jews in this war were Col. David S. Franks of Montreal, Philip Moses Russell, Solomon Bush, Emanuel de la Motta, Benjamin Ezekiel, Jason Sampson, Col. Jacob de la Motta, Aseber Levy, Nathaniel Levy, David Hays and his son Jacob, Reuben Etting, Jacob I. Cohen, Major Lewis Bush, Aaron Benjamin, Joseph Bloomfield, Moses Bloomfield, Isaac Israel and Benjamin Moses.

It was through the influence of a Jew that the commemoration of the first battlefield of the war was made possible. Amos Lawrence of Boston had promised to contribute \$10,000 to complete the Bunker Hill Monument if some one else would be willing to give the same amount; so Judah Touro of New Orleans, who had aided Andrew Jackson in defending that city, immediately came forward with his check.

In our second war with England, known as the war of 1812, we meet

(Continued on Page 6.)

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